THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have sent a reply to Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh informing him that the interim revision of consumption norms w.e.f. 1.4.2000 has been carried out in order to contain the outflow of subsidy and fix the consumption norms at the realistic level. Such revision is, however, only an interim arrangement and is subject to the decision of the Government on the policy parameters for VTI and VIII pricing periods which will include consumption norms also, and will be effective from 1.7.1997.

Chief Minister has been further informed that Government has taken note of the issues raised by him and that the Government is in the process of formulating the pricing policy for urea units for the VII and VIII pricing periods which would cover all the relevant factors, and expects to finalize it shortly.

Hazira Project of KRIBHCO

* 375. SHRI AMAR SINGH:Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not yet finally given clearance of Hazira Phase-ll Project, submitted by KRIBHCO, which was accorded 1st stage approval by Government in October, 1997;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay in approval of the Hazira Project forced Government to import fertilizers and if so, what are the details of quantity of fertilizer imported by Government during the last three years, alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA):

(a) and (b) The proposed Hazira (Phase-ll) Fertilizer Expansion Project of Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO), to manufacture urea, was aproved 'in principle' by the Government in

April 1999 subject to investment appraisal by the Public Investment Board (PIB). Investment appraisal was undertaken by the PIB in July 1999. In June 2000, a proposal for taking a final investment decision was considered and deferred by the Government. This proposal was formulated taking into account the observations of the PIB regarding viability, desirability of encouraging use of liquefied natural gas as feedstock and demand supply gap forecasts.

(c) Details of imports of urea made to bridge the gap between the requirement and indigenous availability in the last three years, along with the expenditure incurred thereon are as under:—

Year	Import of Urea (LMT)	C&F value (Rs. Crore)
1998-99	5.56	240.00
1999-2000	5.33	197.16
2000-01	Nil	—

Functions of EDCIL

† *376. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 667, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd November, 2001 and state:

(a) the functions of Educational Consultants India Limited, NOIDA;

(b) whether they do possess the requisite expertise and capacity to perform those functions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for giving them work orders by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI):

(a) to (d) The main functions of Educational Consultants India Limited is to offer educational consultancy in India and abroad,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.